My Lord, I Love You

Dear brothers and sisters in Islam,

Have you ever tried in a moment of serenity to say sincerely, *‘I love you, my Lord?’* Have you ever uttered it from the bottom of your heart?

You may take this matter lightly and say, *‘What is all the fuss about? We all love Allah The Almighty, and it is very easy for us to say so.*' However, I believe that if you have ever experienced this closely, you would not say so. Claims like these are very easy to make, but the real question is: do the words truly spring from the bottom of your heart? Do you love Allah The Almighty wholeheartedly? Do you love Him in such a way that your love preoccupies you from anything other than Him?

I asked some of my brothers in Islam to enact this experiment for a week and to write down their notes while trying to urge their hearts to utter this declaration without deception or lying, and to avoid saying with their tongues what is not really in their hearts. The results were as I expected: most of them failed to utter the words, and wrote, *“Whenever I tried to utter it I felt that I was a liar; I only managed to utter it sincerely once.”*

Indeed, the matter requires sincerity and transparency, as well as practical application of this love.

‘Abbaad ibn Mansoor, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said, *"During the lifetime of the Prophet, sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam, some people claimed that*

they loved Allaah The Almighty, but Allaah The Almighty wanted them to translate this claim into action. So, Allaah The Exalted Says (what means): ***{Say, [O Muhammad], "If you should love Allaah, then follow me, [so] Allaah will love you and forgive you your sins. And Allaah is Forgiving and Merciful.}*** [Quran 3:31]"

Likewise, the Jews and the Christians claimed that they are the children and beloved ones of Allaah The Almighty: ***{But the Jews and the Christians say, "We are the children of Allaah and His beloved."}*** [Quran 5:18], but Allaah The Almighty Says to them (what means): ***{Say, "Then why does He punish you for your sins?" Rather, you are human beings from among those He has created. He forgives whom He wills, and He punishes whom He wills.}*** [Quran 5:18]

In this verse, Allaah The Almighty refers to the fact that love has certain signs, including the fact that one does not punish those whom he loves. Hence, the absence of these signs means that the claim of being loved by Allaah The Almighty is false.

If you truly love Allaah The Almighty, then provide the evidence. Where is the evidence of your true love for Allaah The Almighty?

How can we claim that we love Allaah The Almighty and then disobey Him?

You may inquire, *'Does love for Allaah The Almighty mean that one must be sinless?'*

The answer is "no". We are not infallible, because we are neither prophets nor angels, but love for Allaah The Almighty makes one repent quickly and return to

his Lord constantly. Hence, when you see such a person, he would appear as if he is sinless.

Ash-Sha‘bi, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said, *“If Allaah The Almighty loves a slave, his sins would not harm him.”*

‘Abdul-Rahmaan ibn Zayd ibn Aslam, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said, *“Allaah The Exalted may love His slave to the extent that He may say to him, ‘Go and do whatever you want, and I have forgiven it in advance.’”*

The meaning is that Allaah The Exalted will guide such a slave to sincere repentance, and the acts that expiate any sins he commits, until he becomes sinless. If this were the only benefit of gaining the love of Allaah The Almighty, it would have been sufficient.

My dear brother and sister in Islam,

Do you really want to love Allaah The Almighty and to be loved by Him?

Do you really aspire to this love that will quench your thirst forever?

Are you ready to do whatever it takes to attain this great honor?

Do you want a remedy for your heart to stop committing sins and misdeeds?

Have you fallen into an unsuccessful love affair that has affected you psychologically and left unforgettable painful traces in your heart?

Do you suffer from the evil of this world and its blights and aspire to gain divine protection and care?

Do you wish to enter Paradise while you are still on earth, to taste real happiness when you find the sweetness of faith inside your heart?

If that is how you feel, then come with us on this faith-boosting journey in the gardens of the "love for Allaah", hoping that we will be able to plant this great meaning in our hearts.

How can we not love our Lord?

My dear brother and sister in Islam,

Whenever you find that your soul is driven to sins and evades good deeds; or loves misguidance and swerves from the right path; or loves what you know angers Allaah The Exalted and neglects or even hates what Allaah The Almighty loves, then you should know that this trial is mainly caused by your ignorance about Allaah The Almighty.

That is because if you really knew Allah The Exalted, you would love Him sincerely and fear Him in a manner that befits him.

If a slave knew his Lord through His most beautiful Names and Attributes, even for a moment, he would fear Him, because He is severe in penalty. However, He would also aspire to His mercy, as He is the Beneficent, the Merciful.

However, the problem is that we do not glorify our Lord in the manner that is due to Him. Allaah The Exalted Says (what means): **{*They have not appraised Allaah with true appraisal. Indeed, Allaah is Powerful and Exalted in might.*}** [Quran 22:74]

Hence, the feet slip into sins and deviate from the right path.

Ignorance about Allaah The Almighty is the cause of all sins, because whoever disobeys Allaah The Exalted is certainly ignorant, just as whoever obeys Him is knowledgeable. This is because when one knows Allaah The Almighty and realizes His glory, pride and loftiness, he will fear and never disobey Him.

It was said, *"If people had contemplated the greatness of Allaah The Almighty, they would have never disobeyed Him, because fear of Allaah The Exalted is sufficient knowledge, while underestimating the wrath of Allaah The Exalted comprises limitless ignorance."*

Is there any sweetness or delight in a sin that will cause loss and deprivation? What will benefit you if you lose your Lord? Who will compensate you if you are deprived of the mercy of your Lord that encompasses everything?

O you who knew the path of Allaah The Exalted and then deviated from it, what affliction can be graver than yours? Allaah The Exalted Says (what means): **{*O you who have believed, whoever of you should revert from his religion - Allaah will bring forth [in place of them] a people He will love and who will love Him*}** [Quran 5:54]

Abu Al-Ash-hab As-Saa'ih said,

> *When I was doing Tawaaf (circumambulation) I passed by a little slave girl clinging to the curtains of the Ka'bah, and saying, 'Alas! What alienation after the sweetness of closeness! Alas! What humiliation after dignity! Alas! What poverty after richness!'*
>
> *I asked her, 'What is wrong with you? Did you lose your money? Have you been afflicted with a calamity?'*

She said, 'No, but I once had a heart, and then (I) lost it.'

I said, 'Is this your calamity?'

She said, 'Is there any calamity worse than the loss of the heart, which connects you to the beloved One?'

I said, 'Your beautiful voice has distracted people from performing Tawaaf.'

She said, 'O Shaykh, is this your house or His House?'

I said, 'No, this is His House.'

She said, 'Is this your sanctuary or His Sanctuary?'

I said, 'No, this is His Sanctuary.'

She said, 'Then leave me to plead before Him as He called us to visit Him!'

She added, 'I ask You (O Allah) by Your love for me to return my heart to me!'

I said, 'How do you know that He loves you?'

She replied, 'He mobilized armies and sent them for me to get me out of the lands of Shirk (polytheism) to adopt Tawheed (Islamic Monotheism) and allowed me to know Him. Of course, this means that He cares for me.' [*Sifat As-Safwah*]

My dear brother and sister in Allaah,

Contemplate and think, but never be heedless.

Do not ever incline to hasty joy, to this passing world, or to bliss that is blemished with worries and sadness.

Is it logical to eat poisoned food to satisfy your hunger, hoping that you will get rid of its effect by taking medicine later?

There is no doubt that this is a hazardous risk, because death may come suddenly. Did you receive guarantees from anyone that this is not going to happen? Why not? Ask the traffic officials about car accidents, and doctors and those who attend funerals frequently about the number of people who die every day at an early age. Why do you not believe that you may face this destiny sooner than you expect, especially since you are walking in the opposite direction and know well that you are away from Allaah The Almighty?

My dear brother and sister in Allaah,

Let me speak with you a little about our Lord, hoping that these words will reach your hearts and make you love Him truly.

Come, let us learn more about our Lord in a different language: the language of love.

It is astonishing that your heart is not filled with love for your Lord, while you see His creation everywhere in the universe. His great bounty is in every breath. His amazing forbearance is evident in that He sees you committing actions that displease Him without punishing you.

This overwhelming generosity of Allaah The Almighty is met on our part by sins and misdeeds; however, when we merely return to Him, He accepts our repentance

graciously and even transforms the misdeeds of the repentant slave into good deeds.

I ask you to imagine this scene, knowing that Allaah The Almighty is far Exalted above everything:

A person extends his hand towards you to help or shake hands with you, while you turn away from him and walk away in the other direction. Despite this rudeness, he is still extending his hand towards you.

I ask you, what will be your reaction to this scene? Would you not censure the one who turns away for his atrocious behavior? Then, what will you do when you know that Allaah The Exalted: ***“Continues to stretch out His hand in the night so that the sinners of the day may repent, and continues to stretch His hand in the daytime so that the sinners of the night may repent.”*** [Muslim]

Imagine with me the scene of a benevolent master who has a poor servant, whom he gives food, drink, money and satisfies his needs in return for some easy tasks. However, this poor servant flagrantly disobeys his master or neglects his duties towards him. Even when he performs these tasks, he performs them according to his own wishes and desires. Do you not think that this master has the right to expel this obstinate servant? However, he does not do so; rather, he gives this servant respite to return and apologize. What great benevolence!

Should you not respect and praise this benevolent man? I think that the message is clear, and Allaah is far Exalted above everything.

Look! Your Lord is The Ever-Affectionate, who does everything to make His slaves love Him, and He even loves them, before they love Him: ***{a people He will love and who will love Him...}*** [Quran 5:54]

His blessings precede the slaves' thankfulness, while He is The All-Mighty and The Owner of Grandeur.

Imagine a great and awe-inspiring king who tries to make his subjects love him in every possible way, while he does not need them.

However, he keeps asking them: Do you need anything? Do you have any need?

The Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*, said: ***"When half of the night or two-thirds of it is over. Allaah, The Almighty, The Exalted, descends to the lowest heaven and Says, 'Is there anyone asking to be given? Is there any supplicator to be answered? Is there any seeker of forgiveness to be forgiven?' (Allaah continues saying this) till daybreak."*** [Muslim]

He loves you, but you do not love Him properly! Indeed, He loved you as He chose you to be a Muslim, so, what have you done to thank Him for this great blessing?

'Ubaydullaah ibn Al-Hasan, the judge of Basra, said,

> *I had a non-Arab beautiful slave girl, and I liked her very much. One night, she was sleeping with me, but when I woke in the middle of the night, she was not beside me. In fact, I expected something evil. However, I found her in Sujood (prostration) while praying, "I ask You by Your love for me to forgive me!" I said to her, you should have said, "I ask You by my love for You…". She answered, "You do not understand! His love for me saved me*

from Shirk (polytheism) and admitted me to Islam and it also allowed me to wake up to pray, while you were sleeping." I said to her, "Go! You are free for the sake of Allaah." She said, "My master, you did not do good to me! I used to receive two rewards, but after being free, I will only receive one reward! [*I'tiqaad Ahl As-Sunnah*]

A worshipping woman used to supplicate Allaah The Almighty saying, *"I ask You by Your love for me to forgive me!"* It was said to her, is it not enough for you to say, *"I ask You by my love for You…"?* She answered, *"Do you not know that He mentioned love for His slaves, before their love for Him*: ***{a people He will love and who will love Him}*** [*Quran 5:54*]"

What great divine mercy! Indeed, one despises himself when he imagines this divine bounty, which is met with disobedience and ingratitude.

My dear brother and sister in faith,

Why do you go away from Allaah The Almighty while He is close to you? Allaah The Almighty Says (what means): ***{And We have already created man and know what his soul whispers to him, and We are closer to him than [his] jugular vein}*** [Quran 50:16]

Consider His overwhelming bounty and benevolence to the extent that He Says in the *Qudsi Hadeeth* (sacred narration): ***"Whosoever approaches Me by one span, I shall approach him by one cubit; and whosoever approaches Me by one cubit, I shall approach him by the span of outstretched arms, and whosoever comes to Me walking, I shall go to him running."***

If we judge this from a worldly point of view, it is simply amazing.

Why should a master be so willing to accept the return of his disobedient and rude slave? This slave ought to correct his mistakes, go to his master, who would not move an inch towards him, and cover the great distances that he walked away from his master to learn his lesson. However, here, The Master moves towards His slave at a faster pace once the slave shows a sign of repentance! Should this not make the slave feel ashamed?

My dear brother and sister in Allaah,

Consider the great Attributes of your Lord. Do you know that your Lord is Bashful? Do you know that? He feels shy of rejecting whoever supplicates Him.

Some of the people who supplicate Allaah The Almighty could be sinful and negligent. However, let me ask you a question:

- Do you know of a slave who humbled himself before His Lord and then did not come to know the true meaning of honor?
- Do you know anyone who sought refuge with Him without obtaining His help?

If this has happened to anyone, then let him accuse himself not Him, because He is The Generous and The Benevolent.

Look! He sees you committing sins and misdeeds, but He covers you up and does not expose you.

Imagine a kind father who gives his son all that he needs; however, the son decides to steal secretly from his father. Imagine what would happen if one day, suddenly he encounters his father in front of him while he is busy stealing his money.

Certainly, the son would tremble with shock and consider this a catastrophe. He never expected that his father would see him in such a state. He would stammer, and shiver with fear, waiting for his father's reaction. What do you suppose would happen if unexpectedly, the father does not reproach the son or even let him know that he has seen him, as if to tell him, *"Please, do not ever do this again!"*

If this son has any sense of shame, what should he do?

My dear brother and sister in Allaah, what do you think about your Ever-Forgiving, Ever-Thankful Lord, who thanks whoever obeys Him? Allaah The Exalted and the King of all kings thanks you for obeying Him -- can you imagine that? He even multiplies the reward of the smallest good deeds ten times and even limitlessly. He receives the date fruit or morsel of food that you offer in charity and increases it until it becomes like a mountain. He saves you from Hell because of giving half a date fruit in charity... What a great Lord!

Do you not feel that your heart beats for Him? Have you shed tears while you read His beautiful attributes and contemplate His magnificent creation?

You meet His blessings and benevolence with ingratitude! What harm has He done to you to prevent you from loving Him? In fact, all the blessings that you enjoy are from Him. He is The One Who provided you with health, money, work, a spouse, and children. All this is from Him and He distinguished you with what is beneficial for you, and promised you that you will find in Paradise what no ear has ever heard and what no eye has ever seen on the Day of Judgment.

Can you tell me: How do you dare to disobey Him and then allege that you love Him?

You should know that Allah The Almighty loves you

Dear brother and sister in Islam,

If Allah The Almighty has tested you with some hardships and difficulties, then you should know that He loves you and wants to hear your supplication.

If Allaah The Almighty has granted you a little money in this world, then you should know that He loves you and He will give you what is more in the Hereafter.

If Allaah The Almighty has granted you satisfaction, then you should know that He loves you and He has granted you the greatest blessing.

If Allaah The Almighty has endowed you with patience, then you should know that He loves you and that you are a winner.

If Allaah The Almighty has granted you sincerity, then you should know that He loves you. So, be sincere to Him.

If Allaah The Almighty has tested you with some worries, then you should know that He loves you and expects you to thank and praise Him.

If Allaah tested you with some sorrow, then you should know that He loves you and tests your faith.

If Allaah The Almighty has granted you money, then you should know that He loves you and that you should not be miserly towards the poor.

If Allaah The Almighty has afflicted you with poverty, then you should know that He loves you and that He has granted you what is more valuable than money.

If Allaah The Almighty has granted you a heart and a tongue, then you should know that He loves you, so use them in enjoining what is good.

If Allaah The Almighty has endowed you with love for prayer, fasting, the Quran and night prayer, then you should know that He loves you and you should be grateful.

Allaah The Almighty has bestowed the blessing of Islam upon you; this proves that He loves you.

Allaah loves you, so, how is it that you do not love Him?

Allaah The Almighty has granted you so much, so, how can you not love Him?

What would be your state if Allaah The Almighty loves you?

Dear brother and sister in Islam,

Do you realize what would be your condition if Allaah The Almighty loves you?

I wish you knew…

I swear by Allaah, The Only God, that if you are a true and wise believer, you would never rest before achieving this great status that cannot be attained except by the fortunate people and the chosen ones, who are completely devoted to Allaah The Almighty and who sincerely worship Him alone. Hence, Allaah The Almighty rewards them greatly and bestows His love on them.

Ibn Al-Qayyim, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said, *"When Allaah The Almighty loves a slave, He plants His love in the slave's heart."* [*Madaarij As-Saalikeen*]

Once Allaah The Almighty loves a slave, He makes him one of His close people, whom He protects from all evil, encompasses with His mercy, endows with His blessings, opens his heart and reassures his soul.

I wish we would realize the greatness of this status…

What do you need more than that?

It is the rank of alliance with Allaah The Almighty, Who Says (what means): **{*Say, "O you who are Jews, if you claim that you are allies of Allaah, excluding the [other] people, then wish for death, if you should be truthful."*}** [Quran 62:6]

O Allaah, We ask You to enable us to do good deeds and avoid evil deeds, and to love the poor, and We ask You to forgive us, have mercy on us and accept our repentance. If You will that trial should befall Your slaves, then take us to You [i.e., cause us to die] without having been subjected to that trial.

Dear brother and sister in Allah,

If Allah The Almighty loves you, He could…

1- **Grant you faith and raise your rank in His Sight:** ‘Abdullaah ibn Mas‘ood, may Allaah be pleased with him, said,

> *Allaah The Almighty gives wealth to those whom He loves and those whom He does not love, while He does not grant faith except to those whom He loves. So, whoever holds money too dearly to spend it (in the cause of Allaah The Almighty) and is prevented by fear of the enemy from fighting and is not diligent enough to stand up at night in worship, should often repeat: La ilaaha illa Allaah, and Subhaana Allaah, and Al-hamdulillaah, and Allaahu akbar (There is no deity*

except Allaah, and All glory be to Allaah, and All praise is due to Allaah, and Allaah is The Greatest). [At-Tabaraani] [Al-Albaani: *Saheeh*]

If you have been granted faith, you are immune from doubts and uncertainty. You are in dire need for this today, because trials are approaching like mountainous waves and most people are deviant -- except those upon whom Allaah The Almighty has mercy.

If you attain the status of a believer in the sight of Allaah The Almighty, then you should rejoice and expect all that is good, because Allaah The Almighty will be with you to save you from all evil and endow you with His satisfaction and pleasure. Allaah The Almighty even pledges to defend the believers, when He Says (what means): ***{And give good tidings to the believers that they will have from Allaah great bounty.}*** [Quran 33:47]

2- Protect you, engulf you in His mercy, and defend you against the evil of your enemies:

The Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*, said:

> ***Allaah Said, "Whosoever shows enmity to someone devoted to Me, I shall be at war with him. My slave draws not near to Me with anything dearer to Me than the duties I have enjoined upon him, and My slave continues to draw near to Me with voluntary acts until I love him. If I loved him, I would be his hearing with which he hears, his sight with which he sees, his hand with which he strikes and his foot with which he walks. Were he to ask [something of] Me, I would surely give him, and were he to ask Me for refuge, I would***

> ***surely grant him. I do not hesitate about anything as much as I hesitate about [seizing] the soul of My faithful slave; he hates death and I hate hurting him.*** [Al-Bukhaari]

Al-Haarith Al-Muhaasibi, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said, *"The sign of the love of Allaah for a slave is to take care of all of his affairs and to choose on his behalf."*

In such a case, Allaah The Almighty will handle your affairs, solve all your problems, protect you from hearing anything except what He loves, and guard your sight from seeing anything except what He loves. He will also guide your bodily organs to obey Him alone.

This is a great bounty from Allaah The Almighty, because it means that you will live under His care.

O Allah! Handle our own affairs for us, because we cannot handle them.

O Allah! Guide us to Your right path as You guide Your beloved ones.

3- **Emancipate you from Hell:**

It was narrated on the authority of Anas, may Allaah be pleased with him, that he said,

> *The Prophet, sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam, was walking with a group of his Companions and they passed by a child standing in the middle of the road alone. When his mother saw the mounts, she feared that her son might be hurt. So, she ran to him while saying, 'My son! My son!' She then carried her child away. The Companions of the*

*Prophet, sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam, said, '**O Prophet of Allaah! This woman would have never thrown her child into Hell-fire!' Thereupon the Prophet, sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam, said: '**No by Allaah! Allaah The Almighty does not throw His beloved ones in Hell.**'* [Al-Haakim] [Al-Albaani: *Saheeh*]

Allaah The Almighty referred to this meaning in the verse in which He Says (what means): ***{Say, "Then why does He punish you for your sins?"}*** [Quran 35:18], as a person does not torture his beloved ones.

4- Make the dwellers of heaven love you and place acceptance for you on earth:

The Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*, said: ***"If Allaah loves a slave, He calls out to Jibreel, 'Allaah loves so-and-so, so love him,' hence, Jibreel loves him. Then Jibreel calls out to the dwellers of heaven, 'Allaah loves so-and-so, so love him.' So the dwellers of heaven love him and he finds acceptance on earth."*** [Al-Albaani: *Saheeh Al-Jaami'*]

In another narration: ***"If Allaah loves a slave, He calls Jibreel and Says, 'I love so-and-so; so love him.' Then, Jibreel announces this in the heavens and then the people on earth love him. Allaah The Almighty Says (what means): {Indeed, those who have believed and done righteous deeds - The Most Merciful will appoint for them affection.} [Quran 19:96] However, if Allaah The exalted hates a slave, He calls Jibreel and Says, 'I hate so-and-so, so hate him.' Jibreel announces this amongst the inhabitants of heaven, and then he becomes the object of hatred on the earth also."*** [At-Tirmithi] [Al-Albaani: *Saheeh*]

Al-Fudhayl, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said, *"Deal with Allaah The Almighty devotedly and privately, because the honorable slave is the one who is raised by Allaah The Almighty. When Allaah The Exalted loves someone, He will place his love in the slaves' hearts."*

Hence, the dwellers of heaven will intercede and supplicate for you, and when you die, they will celebrate your advent and give you the glad tidings of having earned the Satisfaction of Allaah The Almighty. Allaah The Exalted Says (what means):

- ***{They will not be grieved by the greatest terror, and the angels will meet them, [saying], "This is your Day which you have been promised" -}*** [Quran 21:103]
- ***{Indeed, those who have said, "Our Lord is Allaah" and then remained on a right course - the angels will descend upon them, [saying], "Do not fear and do not grieve but receive good tidings of Paradise, which you were promised. * We [angels] were your allies in worldly life and [are so] in the Hereafter. And you will have therein whatever your souls desire, and you will have therein whatever you request [or wish]}*** [Quran 41:30-31]

5- Protect you from all the worldly evils:

The Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*, said: ***"If Allaah The Almighty loves a slave, He will protect him in this world just as one of you deprives his sick relative of water (if it is harmful for him)."*** [Al-Tirmithi] [Al-Albaani: *Saheeh*]

Ibn Mas‘ood, may Allaah be pleased with him, said, "*If Allaah The Almighty loves someone, He would choose him for Himself and relieve him of all cares including his wife and children.*"

Al-Fudhayl ibn ‘Iyaadh, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said, *"If Allaah The Almighty loves a slave, He will intensify his worries, and if He hates a slave, He will increase his sustenance in this world."*

Hence, the one who is loved by Allaah The Almighty will be distressed in this life, and this will make him turn with his heart away from life without being attached to any of the worldly pleasures including children, women, money, trade or anything else. Rather, he will be dedicated to Allaah The Almighty, who will be his Beloved and the delight of his heart.

6- Guide you to good deeds and repentance of sins:

The Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam*, said that if Allaah The Almighty loves a slave, He guides him to do good deeds before his death. [Ibn Hibbaan, Al-Haakim, and Al-Bayhaqi] [Al-Albaani: *Saheeh*]

Al-Fudhayl, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said, *"If Allaah loves a slave, He guides him to do good deeds. So, try to draw closer to Allaah The Almighty through love for the poor."* [*I‘tiqaad Ahl As-Sunnah*]

Al-Sha‘bi, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said, *"They used to say that the one who repents of the sin is like the one who has not committed a sin in the first place. Allaah The Exalted also stated that He loves the ones constantly repenting and the ones constantly purifying themselves. Hence, if*

Allaah The Almighty loves a slave, no sin can harm him, and the harmless sin is as if it has never happened.” [*Hilyat Al-Awliyaa’*]

It is one of the signs of acceptance in the sight of Allaah The Almighty to be guided to good deeds, and keep away from sins. Hence, if Allaah The Almighty loves a slave, He guides him to good deeds that draw him near to Him, and protects him from all evils. Allaah The Exalted Says (what means): ***{Indeed, Allaah defends those who have believed. Indeed, Allaah does not like everyone treacherous and ungrateful.}*** [Quran 22:38]

7- Make you one of His slaves:

Al-Ghazzaali, may Allah have mercy upon him, said, *“When Allah The Almighty loves someone, He makes people need him frequently.”* [*Al-Maqsid Al-Asna*]

Ibn Al-Qayyim, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said, *“If Allah The Almighty loves a slave, He prepares him for Himself, chooses him for worship, busies him and his tongue with remembering Him, and his body in serving Him.”*

It is a great status to be a servant of Allah The Almighty and to be used by the Lord of the worlds to convey goodness to all people. In this way, your record of good deeds will be filled with great benevolent acts due to the fact that Allaah The Almighty made people need you, and He took care of your own affairs. In short, when Allaah The Almighty uses a slave, He enables such a person to serve Him and chooses him for Himself.

8- Refine your morals and grant you leniency:

The Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*, said: ***"If Allaah The Almighty loves a slave, He endows him with gentleness. Any house that has no gentleness is deprived of good (including reward)."*** [At-Tabaraani] [Al-Albaani: *Hasan*]

According to some narrations, good morals are stored with Allaah The Almighty, so, when He loves a slave, He grants him good morals.

When Allaah The Almighty loves someone, He implants mercy and compassion towards all creatures in his heart. He also grants him generosity, compassion, tolerance as well as insight into his own faults so he despises his own self and regards it as nothing.

Reality proves this fact, as we have heard a great deal about many people who were known for their bad morals before adherence to the teachings of Islam, but all their habits, morals and manners changed and improved radically after that, as if they were reborn. Undoubtedly, this is the bounty of Allaah The Almighty and He bestows it upon whomever He wills.

9- Provide you with lawful sustenance:

Al-Fudhayl, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said, *"When Allaah The Almighty loves a slave, He provides him with lawful sustenance."*

Today, this is an immense blessing, because many people are not keen on eating from lawful sources, as the Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*, said: ***"A time will come when one will not care how he gains his money, legally or illegally."*** [Al-Bukhaari]

The problem is that the Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*, said: ***"A body that thrives on ill-gotten gains deserves to be food for Hell."*** [At-Tirmithi] [Al-Albaani: *Saheeh*]

Consuming lawful earnings endows one with insight, acumen and uprightness of the heart. In such a case, one's deeds will be more likely to be accepted by Allaah The Almighty, as He is good and accepts only what is good.

10- Test you to refine and choose you:

The Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*, said: ***"If Allaah loves a people, He will afflict them. Whoever accepts that patiently wins His pleasure but whoever is discontented with that earns His wrath."*** [Ahmad] [Al-Arnaa'oot: Good chain of narrators]

This is a great bounty from Allaah The Almighty upon His slave, because these tests expiate the sins and relieve the hearts of being absorbed by worldly affairs. This bounty also protects the slave from committing what may harm him in the Hereafter. All the tests of Allaah The Almighty, such as difficult living conditions, a disturbed life, and the tyranny of others is to try the person's truthfulness and patience in resisting his desires. Allaah The Exalted Says (what means): ***{And We will surely test you until We make evident those who strive among you [for the cause of Allaah] and the patient, and We will test your affairs.}*** [Quran 47:31]

How can we love our Lord?

The causes that bring about the love of Allaah The Almighty:

If you really wish to quench the thirst of your heart with love for Allaah The Almighty, then you should consider the following reasons that will entitle you to this great gift. If you are indeed true, you will never leave any of these reasons without trying as hard as possible to perform them in the best possible way. You will never stop knocking on the doors hoping that He may love you. After attaining this great status, you will stop searching for a higher status, because this honor is incomparable.

These causes include the following:

1- **Knowing Allaah The Almighty and realizing the manifestations of His Names and Attributes:**

Allaah The Almighty wants His slaves to keep trying to know Him more and more and He even thanks them for that and rewards them greatly by implanting His love in their hearts.

The Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*, said: ***"Remember Him in prosperity and He will help you in adversity."*** [Al-Qaasim ibn Bishraan] [Al-Albaani: *Saheeh*]

The Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*, said: ***"Allaah The Almighty would wonder at a slave if he said, 'There is none truly worthy of worship except You; I wronged myself, forgive me for there is no one who forgives sin except You.' Allaah The Almighty would say, 'My slave knows that he has a Lord who forgives and punishes.'"*** [Al-Haakim] [Al-Albaani: *Saheeh*]

Hence, Allaah The Almighty wants His slaves to know and remember Him all the time and to try to draw closer to Him through acts of obedience and to praise Him for His blessings.

‘Utbah Al-Ghulaam, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said, *“Whoever knows Allaah The Almighty, loves Him; whoever loves Allaah, obeys Him; whoever obeys Allaah, He will place him under His protection; whoever is placed under the protection of Allaah The Almighty, he is blessed… he is blessed...”* He kept saying so until he fainted.

A recommended way to know Allaah The Exalted:

Contemplating the kingdoms of the heavens and the earth:

Muslims over the ages

kept contemplating the creation of Allaah The Almighty, until their hearts became full of certainty, and until they worshipped Allaah The Almighty as if they saw Him. Our righteous predecessors used to prefer contemplation to voluntary acts of worship. For example, the majority of the voluntary deeds of Abu Ad-Dardaa’, may Allaah be pleased with him, were contemplation and thinking.

‘Abdullaah At-Taymi, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said, *“Long contemplation is the best voluntary act of worship.”*

There is no doubt that thinking about the Names and Attributes of Allaah The Almighty is among the strongest causes of love, because people love others for their good attributes. Hence, you must think about the Attributes

of your Lord, His mercy and forbearance. You should know that the reward of whoever knows His Lord is to be admitted to Paradise.

The Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*, said: ***"Allaah The Almighty has ninety-nine names, one hundred minus one, whoever knows and memorizes them will enter Paradise."*** [Al-Bukhaari and Muslim]

2- Realizing the great blessing of Allaah The Almighty upon His slaves:

At-Taahir ibn 'Aashoor, said, *"Perhaps mentioning the blessings can substitute the command for obedience, because noble souls are disposed by nature to obey the commands of the benefactor. Naturally, benevolence leads to mutual love."* [*At-Tahreer wat-Tanweer*]

Human souls are disposed by nature to loving whoever does favors to them. Therefore, Allaah The Almighty commanded us to speak about His blessings upon us because this instills His love in the heart. Allaah The Almighty Says (what means): ***{But as for the favor of your Lord, report [it].}*** [Quran 93:11]

The Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*, said: ***"Love Allaah The Almighty for His blessings upon you, love me out of your love for Allaah, and love my household out of your love for me."*** [At-Tirmithi: *Hasan Ghareeb*]

Al-Fudhayl, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said, *"Allaah The Almighty revealed to Prophet Daawood, may Allaah exalt his mention: 'Love Me, love whoever loves Me, and endear Me to My slaves.' He replied, 'My Lord I know how to love You and how to love those who love You, but how can I*

endear You to Your slaves?' Allaah The Almighty Said: 'Mention My sublime and most beautiful Attributes before them.'"

'Umar ibn 'Abdul-'Azeez, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said, *"Contemplating the blessings of Allaah The Almighty is the best act of worship."*

Thun-Noon, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said, *"You can know Allaah The Almighty by doing three things: contemplating how Allaah The Almighty managed the affairs, estimated the decrees and created the creatures."*

So, think about your state: From what were you created? Who provided you with all these blessings? Look and consider how did He grant you some blessings and deprive others? Does this not necessitate thanking and obeying Him? Do you not know that He has deprived you of things out of fear for you and to protect you from what may lead you to your doom?

The problem is that we want this world, but Allaah The Almighty wants the Hereafter for us.

Listen to these verses several times and recall the situations that still stick to your mind, then say, *"Were it not for the Mercy of Allaah The Almighty such-and-such would not have happened! Thanks to Allaah The Almighty who favored me with all these blessings and favored me over many of His slaves!"*

Allaah The Exalted Says to his Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*, (what means): ***{Did He not find you an orphan and give [you] refuge? ****

And He found you lost and guided [you], * And He found you poor and made [you] self-sufficient.} [Quran 93:6-8]

Imagine the influence of these verses upon the Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*, and imagine your condition and ask yourself: *Did He not find you….? Did He not find you …?*

Then, what did you do with Him? You disobeyed Him and deviated from His path? Is there anything worse than this? Are you still reluctant to adhere to the teachings of Islam? Do you (O women) still hate *Hijaab* (Islamic covering)? Are you still negligent about prayer? Do you still have a girlfriend or a boyfriend? Are you still an addict? Do you still spend the night at places of prohibited entertainment? Are you still fleeing from Allaah The Exalted while He is The One who granted you all the blessings that you use to disobey Him?

3- Frequent Remembrance of Allaah The Almighty:

Thun-Noon, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said, "*Whoever busies his heart and tongue in making Thikr (words of remembrance), Allaah The Almighty will implant yearning for Him in his heart."*

Ibraaheem ibn Al-Junayd, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said, *"One of the signs of one's love for Allaah The Almighty is to remember Him by the heart and tongue. It is almost impossible for a slave to remember Allaah The Almighty frequently, without developing love for Allaah The Exalted."*

Ibn Al-Qayyim, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said,

> *Allaah The Almighty made a cause for everything, and made frequent remembrance the cause of the continuity of love. Hence, whoever wants to win the love of Allaah The Exalted, should remember Him frequently. Study is the door of knowledge, and remembrance (Thikr) is the door of love, its main road, and straightest path*. [*Al-Waabil As-Sayyib*]

Hence, remember Allaah The Almighty all the time frequently and never forget the supplications of the morning and the evening, as they represent your faith-boosting provisions.

Say: "*La ilaaha ill-Allaahu wahdahu la sharika lah, lahul-mulku, wa lahul-hamd, wa Huwa 'ala kulli shay'in Qadeer* (*None has the right to be worshipped but Allaah, who has no partner, to whom the sovereignty belongs, to Whom all praise is due, and who is able to do all things*)," as much as you can, as this supplication is protection from the devil, and a cause of emancipation from Hell. It also increases the record of your good deeds and removes your sins, as it is one of the dearest good deeds to Allaah The Almighty.

Say: *"Subhaan-Allaahi wa bihamdihi, Subhaan-Allaahil-'Atheem [Glory be to Allaah and His is the praise, (and) Allaah, The Greatest is free from imperfection)",* as many times as you can because those words are heavy on the scales of Judgment and entitle you to the love of Allaah The Almighty.

Ask Allaah The Almighty for forgiveness as much as you can, because this purifies the heart, refines the soul and expiates sins and misdeeds.

Invoke peace and blessings upon the Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*, as much as you can, because this is one of the greatest causes of blessings and it strengthens love for the Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*, and entitles you to his intercession on the Day of Judgment. It also increases your good deeds and fulfills your needs by the permission of Allaah The Almighty.

4- Reading the Quran and contemplating it:

'Aa'ishah, may Allaah be pleased with her, said,

> *The Prophet, sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam, sent an army unit under the command of a man who used to lead his companions in the prayers and would finish his recitation with Surah Al-Ikhlaas:* ***{Say (O Muhammad): "He is Allaah, the One."}*** *[Quran 112:1] When they returned (from the battle), they mentioned that to the Prophet, sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam. He said (to them):* ***'Ask him why he does so.'*** *They asked him and he said, 'I do so because it mentions the Attributes of The Most Merciful and I love to recite it (in my prayer).' The Prophet, sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam, said (to them):* ***'Tell him that Allaah loves him.'"*** [Al-Bukhaari and Muslim]

When he loved this *Surah* (chapter), which the Attributes of Allaah The Almighty, He loved him. This is the required way of reading the Quran, i.e. along with contemplating the words of The One Whom you love.

Ibn Al-Qayyim, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said,

Glory be to The One who made His speech the life of the hearts and the cure for chests. In general, the most beneficial remedy for the heart is to read the Quran and contemplate its meanings, as it comprises all the ranks of the people who took the path of Allaah The Almighty and statuses of the knowledgeable people. It also implants love and longing for Allaah The Almighty, as well as fear of and hope in Him, in addition to reliance on Allaah The Almighty and repentance to Him. Moreover, it implants satisfaction, submission, gratitude, patience, and all the conditions that are necessary for the life of the heart. On the other hand, it also deters one from all the misdeeds and evil qualities that spoil the heart and destroy it.

If people realized the benefits of reading the Quran with contemplation, they would be preoccupied with it to the exclusion of everything else. Therefore, when one reads with contemplation and then passes by a verse that he needs to cure his heart, he may repeat it even one hundred times in a night. Reading a single verse with contemplation is better than reading the whole Quran without contemplating its meanings. That is because this helps one establish faith firmly in the heart, and taste the sweetness of the Quran. This was the habit of the righteous predecessors, who sometimes used to repeat one verse until morning. It was narrated that the Prophet, sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam, spent a night repeating the following verse until morning: ***{If You should punish them - indeed they are Your servants; but if You forgive them - indeed it is You who is The Exalted in Might, The Wise.}*** *[Quran 5:118] Reading the Quran with contemplation is the source of*

uprightness and righteousness of the heart. [*Miftaah Daar As-Sa'aadah*]

5- Humbling oneself before Allaah The Almighty:

Ibn Al-Qayyim, may Allaah have mercy upon him, considered this as one of the causes that implant love for Allaah The Almighty in one's heart. He said, *"Humbling one's heart before Allaah The Exalted is one of the most amazing causes of love, and when we speak about it, we only refer to names and description rather than the indescribable essence."* [*Madaarij As-Saalikeen*]

Hence, when Allaah The Almighty wants to raise and honor a slave, He will make him humble himself before Him first. Then, the slave receives Divine support in accordance with the degree of his humbleness. Allaah The Almighty Says (what means): ***{And already had Allaah given you victory at [the battle of] Badr while you were humble.}*** [Quran 3:123]

Hence, the blessings of Allaah The Almighty are sent down to engulf the humble and weak people: ***{And We wanted to confer favor upon those who were oppressed in the land and make them leaders and make them inheritors * And establish them in the land…}*** [Quran 28:5-6]

A slave becomes nearest to his Lord when he humbles himself before Allaah The Almighty. At this time, the mercy of Allaah The Almighty will be near him.

According to some narrations of the Children of Israel, Moosa (Moses), may Allaah exalt his mention, asked Allaah The Almighty, *"Where should I seek*

Your pleasure and mercy?" Allaah The Almighty Said: *"Search for My pleasure and mercy with the humble people."*

Hence, Allaah The Almighty may try you to hear your humble supplications, as He loves your cries because it implies that you humble yourself before Him and acknowledge your need for Him. This is the true meaning of worship, which is the main purpose of your creation; so, have you understood this meaning?

6- Observing the congregational prayer:

The Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*, said: ***"When you pray make your rows straight and let anyone amongst you act as your Imaam. Recite the Takbeer when he recites it and when he recites (what means): {other than that of the ones against whom You are angered, and not (that of) the erring.} [Quran 1:7], say: Aameen. Allaah would respond to you."*** [Muslim]

The congregational prayer is one of the greatest acts of worship that draw one closer to Allaah The Almighty. It is better than the individual's prayer by twenty-seven degrees and whoever goes to the *Masjid* to perform it, Allaah The Almighty grants him a reward akin to the reward of *Hajj*, encompasses him in His mercy, and forgives his sins. In addition, whoever performs the prayer in congregation along with witnessing the opening *Takbeer* for forty days, he will be exonerated from hypocrisy and his neck will be emancipated from Hell.

The congregational prayer embodies the essence of love, brotherhood and the unity of the Muslims, as it joins their hearts and gathers them around the

worship of their Lord, who wants the believers to be like one body and a single structure that is joined firmly. Therefore, Allaah The Almighty likes the people who perform congregational prayer to be as many as possible. The Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam*, said: ***“A man's prayer along with another is purer than his prayer alone, and his prayer with two men is purer than his prayer with one, but if there are more it is more pleasing to Allaah, The Almighty, The Majestic.”*** [Ahmad, Abu Daawood and An-Nasaa’i] [Al-Albaani: *Hasan*]

So, you have to be keen on it, because it is one of the greatest causes of the pleasure of Allaah The Almighty, while leaving it incurs the wrath of Allaah The Exalted and His anger.

Ibn Mas‘ood, may Allaah be pleased with him, said, *“I witnessed the time when no one missed it (the congregational prayer) except a hypocrite well-known for his hypocrisy.”* [Muslim]

Abu Sulaymaan Al-Daaraani said, *“No one misses a congregational prayer except due to a sin.”*

7- Performing many supererogatory acts of worship:

Allaah The Almighty Says in a *Qudsi Hadeeth* (sacred narration): ***“…and My slave keeps on coming closer to Me through performing voluntary good deeds, until I love him…”*** [Al-Bukhaari]

Conventionally speaking, drawing closer to Allaah The Almighty is usually done through performing additional good deeds and acts of worship besides the religious duties, because this is evidence of one’s keenness on satisfying

his Lord. The slave who keeps doing good deeds, seems as if he is knocking on the door of his Lord hoping that it might be opened for him.

Hence, dear brother and sister in Allaah, I recommend you to observe the voluntary prayers.

Perform two *Rak'ahs* (units) before the *Fajr* (dawn) Prayer, as they are better than the world and all that it contains.

Perform four *Rak'ahs* in the forenoon (*Dhuha* Prayer), so that Allaah The Almighty protects you from all evils and trials. You would also be one of the best worshippers and slaves of Allaah The Almighty, as you will be recorded among the people who repent frequently.

Perform four *Rak'ahs* before and after the *Thuhr* (afternoon) Prayer, and your body will never suffer the fire of Hell.

Perform four *Rak'ahs* before the '*Asr* (late afternoon) Prayer and Allaah The Almighty will endow you with mercy from Him.

Perform two *Rak'ahs* after the *Maghrib* Prayer to revive the *Sunnah* (tradition) of the Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*.

Perform two *Rak'ahs* after the '*Ishaa'* (night) Prayer.

Perform eleven *Rak'ahs* in the night prayer, which is the practice of the righteous people and their lifelong motto. It is also the honor of the believer and it is one of the greatest causes of expiating sins and misdeeds.

The least thing is to observe twelve voluntary *Rak'ahs* every day and night, as the Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*, said: ***"If any Muslim slave (of Allaah) performs ablution perfectly and then prays, for the sake of Allaah, twelve Rak'ahs every day, other than the obligatory ones, Allaah will build for him a house in Paradise."*** [Muslim]

8- Secluding oneself to speak intimately with his Lord:

According to Ibn Al-Qayyim, may Allaah have mercy upon him, the causes of implanting love for Allaah The Exalted in the heart include, *"Secluding oneself at the time when Allaah The Almighty descends to the first heaven to have an intimate conversation with Him, read His Speech, and make his heart stand humbly before Him. Then one should conclude with asking for forgiveness and repentance."*

This is one of the merits of the night voluntary prayer, when our Lord descends to ask His slaves about their needs to satisfy them. O Allaah, we only seek Your satisfaction, so provide us with Your love.

Al-Hasan, may Allaah have mercy upon him, was asked, *"Why do people who observe the night prayer have the most cheerful faces?"* He said, *"They privately meet their Lord in the pre-dawn hours, so, He grants them some of His light."*

What would be the result if the sinners woke up in the pre-dawn hours, stood humbly before Allaah The Exalted, and said what the brothers of Yoosuf (Joseph), may Allaah exalt his mention, said to him (which means): ***{"O 'Azeez, adversity has touched us and our family, and we have come with***

***goods poor in quality, but give us full measure and be charitable to us. Indeed, Allaah rewards the charitable."*}** [Quran 12:88]

The answer would be: ***{"No blame will there be upon you today. Allaah will forgive you; and He is The Most Merciful of the merciful."}*** [Quran 12:93]

9- Dealing honestly and sincerely with Allaah The Almighty in addition to disobeying one's whims:

Abu Haazim, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said, *"If you abide by two characteristics, I can assure you that you will go to Paradise: leave what you love and endure what you dislike as long as Allaah The Almighty loves this."*

Fat-h Al-Mawsili, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said, *"Whoever uses his heart to look at the Beloved, will be rewarded with the delight of seeing Him; whoever gives precedence to the commands of Allaah The Almighty over his own desires, he would be endowed with Divine love; whoever longs for Him, relinquishes anything other than Him, observes His rights, and fears Him without seeing Him, will be rewarded with seeing His honorable Face on the Day of Judgment."*

These are indeed great glad tidings…

If one keeps contemplating the Names and Attributes of Allaah The Almighty, He will open his heart and fill it with pleasure and happiness, leaving no room for misery or sadness. Whoever gives precedence to the commands of Allaah The Almighty over his own inclinations and desires,

preferring Allaah The Almighty and obedience to Him over his whims, then Allaah The Almighty will reward Him with the best, because our Lord is Ever-Thankful. Hence, He will grant such a slave His love, which is the greatest blessing.

Try to lower your gaze and say privately what Yoosuf, may Allaah exalt his mention, said (which means): ***{And if You do not avert from me their plan, I might incline toward them and [thus] be of the ignorant.}*** [Quran 12:33]

Keep doing this and I swear you will find it pleasurable and delightful. This is because whoever leaves anything for the sake of Allaah The Almighty, He will compensate him with what is better. Is there any compensation better than being loved by Allaah The Almighty?

Dear sister, try not to expose your beauty and adornment and give up wearing tight and improper clothes only for the sake of Allaah The Almighty and resist your desire to be sought and preyed upon by impassioned eyes. Try to do this for the sake of Allaah The Almighty, and say what Moosa, may Allaah exalt his mention, said (which means): ***{and I hastened to You, my Lord, that You be pleased}*** [Quran 20:84]

In this case, Allaah The Almighty will protect you, thank you for this sacrifice, and reward you greatly.

What are you waiting for?

Do you not want to be loved by Allaah The Almighty?

10- Remember the bliss of the people of Paradise, especially when they see their Lord:

The causes that instill love for Allaah The Almighty in hearts and minds include remembering the bliss of the people of Paradise and what Allaah The Almighty has prepared for His allies. It is sufficient in this respect to remember that this is when you will see the Face of your Lord.

You will see Him finally; you will see the Beloved One whom you have always been longing for. When this happens, you will realize the true meaning of bliss. At that time, your happiness and delight will be unimaginable.

When you see Him, He will provide you with satisfaction and blessings.

Al-Hasan Al-Basri, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said,

> *Those who truly love Allaah The Almighty have won the bliss of this life, and tasted its sweetness as a result of the delight of intimate conversation with their Lord and the sweetness of this love in their hearts, especially when one of them remembers Him and imagines the day when they will speak with Him directly and the day when the veils will be removed in their secure place, and the home of eternal happiness, where Allaah The Almighty will allow them to see Him and listen to Him while He responds to their intimate conversations with Him in this world. At that time, their hearts will dote on Him, their love will be directed to Him, and they will be dedicated to Him. So, those who purely love their Lord should rejoice and expect that they will see their beloved Lord. Hence, I swear that it is improper for any reasonable person to be absorbed in any form of love other than the love for Allaah The Almighty.* [*Majmoo‘ Rasaa’il Ibn Rajab*]

11- Love for the allies of Allaah The Almighty:

Love of Allaah The Almighty necessitates loving those who love your Beloved One and hating those who hate Him. Therefore, Allaah The Almighty Says (what means): ***{humble toward the believers, powerful against the disbelievers…}*** [Quran 5:54]

The Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*, said: ***"A man set out to visit a brother (in faith) in another town and Allaah sent an angel on his way. When the man met the angel, the latter asked him, 'Where do you intend to go?' He said, 'I intend to visit a brother of mine in this town.' The angel said, 'Have you done any favor to him and are you seeking any in return?' He said, 'No, I have no desire except to visit him because I love him for the sake of Allaah.' Thereupon the angel said, 'I am a messenger to you from Allaah (to inform you) that Allaah loves you as you love him (for His sake).'"*** [Muslim]

Al-Murta'ish was asked, *"How can you achieve love for Allaah The Almighty?"* He said, *"By supporting His allies and antagonizing His enemies!"*

Shaah Al-Kirmaani, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said, *"No worshipper has ever performed an act of worship better than loving the allies of Allaah The Almighty, because this is a sign of love for Allaah The Almighty."*

Sufyaan Ath-Thawri, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said, *"Love the people of Paradise to be with them on the Day of Judgment and hate the people of sins, so that Allaah The Almighty loves you."*

Dear brother and sister in Allaah, you should love the obedient people and hate the disobedient and dissolute people.

You should love the people of the *Masjids*, and those who adhere to the *Sunnah* of the Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*.

You should love the righteous people and hate the oppressors, as well as those who publicly and blatantly disobey their Lord, while being unaware of the fact that Allaah The Almighty sees them. Avoid their assemblies and keep away from their gatherings so as not to anger your Lord.

If we deal with Allaah The Almighty in the manner that is due, our view of things would change significantly. If Allaah The Almighty loves us, He would take care of our affairs, make us among His righteous slaves, and protect us from the evil of wrongdoers and bad companions.

When we hate the disobedient people, we do not do this for personal reasons; rather, we hate their sins and feel protective zeal for the sake of Allaah The Almighty, Who hates the violation of His prohibitions. Nevertheless, our hearts should be filled with pity and mercy for sinners, as we all commit sins.

12- Love of the Companions:

The Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*, said: ***"No one loves the Ansaar (Helpers) but a believer, and no one hates them but a hypocrite. Allaah will love the one who loves them, and He will hate the one who hates them."*** [Al-Bukhaari and Muslim]

Do you not see that when we go to Madeenah, we love its people and feel comfortable when dealing with them? This is because some of them are the descendants of the *Ansaar*. Hence, Allaah The Almighty implanted love for them in people's hearts, as He loved them and was pleased with them.

Therefore, the most beloved people to you must be the righteous predecessors including the Companions of the Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*, and whoever follows them in guidance until the Day of Judgment.

Read their biographies, memorize their names, name your children after them, and acquire their morals and faith, because this will lead you to the right path and true guidance. Allaah The Almighty Says (what means): **{*So if they believe in the same as you believe in, then they have been [rightly] guided; but if they turn away, they are only in dissension, and Allaah will be sufficient for you against them. And He is The Hearing, The Knowing.*}** [Quran 2:137]

We should always remember that souls are disposed by nature to imitating those whom they love; hence, if you truly love them, you will acquire their attributes.

O Muslim sister! When you read the biographies of the Mothers of the Believers and female Companions of the Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*, you will find that you truly want to imitate them in their chastity, modesty, *Hijaab* and noble morals.

Your role model will be 'Aa'ishah, the sea of knowledge, Hafsah, the frequent performer of prayer and fast, Maymoonah, the righteous and the

pious woman, Juwayriyah, the lover of the night prayer and *Thikr*, and Safiyyah, the ascetic benevolent woman, may Allaah be pleased with all of them.

Your role model will be Abu Bakr, the *Siddeeq* of our nation, the inspired ‘Umar, ‘Uthmaan the generous and true worshipper, Mu‘aath the well-versed scholar, Abu Tharr, the ascetic and Khaalid the leader, may Allaah be pleased with them all.

Those are your beloved ones and allies. You must remember that you will be with those whom you love on the Day of Judgment.

Anas, may Allaah be pleased with him, narrated that a man asked the Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam*, about the Hour (i.e. Day of Judgment) saying, *"‘When will the Hour be?’ The Prophet, sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam, said:* ***‘What have you prepared for it?’*** *The man said, ‘Nothing, except that I love Allaah and His Messenger.’ The Prophet, sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam, said:* ***‘You will be with those whom you love.’"*** Anas, may Allaah be pleased with him, further added, *“I love the Prophet, sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam, Abu Bakr and ‘Umar, and I hope that I will be with them because of my love for them.”* [Al-Bukhaari and Muslim]

13- Accompanying those who truly love Allaah The Almighty:

According to Ibn Al-Qayyim, may Allaah have mercy upon him, the causes of love for Allaah The Almighty include, *“Sitting with those who truly love Allaah The Almighty, picking up the best of their words, like picking up the*

ripest fruits, and refraining from talking unless you are certain that your speech will most likely be beneficial to you and to others.”

The speech of such people softens hard hearts and fills dry eyes with tears; these people have known Allaah The Almighty and tasted the sweetness of true happiness and deep faith. Hence, they expressed this deep and overwhelming feeling in different ways. For example, they said:

- *If the kings and sons of kings knew what joy we experience, they would fight us for it with their swords.* [*Hilyat Al-Awliyaa’*]

- *Sometimes, I feel something in my heart that makes me say, “If the people in Paradise experience this condition, then they have a good life.”*

- *Sometimes the heart experiences certain feelings that fill it with delight out of love for and closeness with Allaah The Almighty.*

- *The heedless people are poor; they depart from this world without tasting the best thing in it (i.e. the love of Allaah The Almighty).*

Listen to them with your heart and try to live these pure moments with Allaah The Almighty and you will see amazing results.

- Hakeem ibn Hizaam, may Allaah have mercy upon him, used to perform *Tawaaf* while repeating, *“There is none truly worthy of worship but Allaah. He is The Best Lord and God. I love and fear Him.”*

- Musma‘ ibn ‘Aasim, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said, *“I once heard a Bahraini worshipper saying at late night, ‘O apple of my eye and delight of my heart! What did I commit [for You] to disregard me, O*

Granter of uprightness?' He screamed and wept, and then called out, 'Blessed are the hearts that were filled with Your awe, and dominated by Your love; Your love prevents one from any delight other than intimate conversation with You and diligence in Your service, and Your awe prevents one from committing any sin for fear of Your Wrath.' He then wept again."

- Dhaygham ibn Maalik, may Allaah have mercy upon him, used to say while prostrating, *"My Lord, how did the hearts of people turn away from You?"* Whenever he would suffer from carelessness, he would perform *Ghusl* (ritual bath), enter his house, and shut the door. Then he would say, *"My Lord, here I am at Your service,"* and resume his bowing and prostration.

- Another one of them would say, *"My Lord, I am thirsty for Your love and I will never be satisfied. I am a hungry slave who will never have enough of the love of my Lord. "*

- 'Utbah Al-Ghulaam, may Allaah have mercy upon him, used to spend the whole night praying and prostrating while saying nothing but, *"If You torture me, I love You. If You have mercy upon me, I too love You."*

He also used to say, *"Glory be to The Mighty Lord of heaven, the lover is in real trouble."*

O Allaah! Do not make us from those who supplicate only with their tongues while their hearts are absent. O Allaah! You are the dearest thing to us; so, do not make us the least significant things in Your sight.

14- Asceticism:

The Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*, said: ***"Have no desire for this world and Allaah will love you; and have no desire for what people possess and the people will love you."*** [Ibn Maajah] [Al-Albaani: *Saheeh*]

The essence of asceticism in this world is to abandon whatever will not benefit you in the Hereafter, and to be more certain of what is in the hand of Allaah The Almighty than you are of what is in your own hands. In such a case, you would consider that all the superfluous pleasures are dispensable.

Just keep the food, drink and clothes that satisfy your needs and allow you to reach the eternal world safely. You must remember that your journey is long and your age is short. The Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*, said: ***"Sufficient for you in this world are the provisions of the traveler."*** [At-Tabaraani and Al-Bayhaqi] [Al-Albaani: *Saheeh*]

Umm Ad-Dardaa', may Allaah be pleased with her, said, *"I asked Abu Ad-Dardaa', 'Why do you not do your best to get such-and-such like so-and-so?' He answered, 'I heard the Prophet, sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam, saying:* ***"You are going to face an insurmountable obstacle that the people who carry heavy things cannot pass." So, I want to carry light things for the sake of this obstacle.'"*** [At-Tabaraani with *Saheeh* chain of narrators]

The righteous worshipper, 'Aamir ibn 'Abd Qays, may Allaah have mercy upon him, used to say, *"The main worldly pleasures are women, clothes, food and sleep. As for women, I swear by Allaah that I do not care whether I see a woman or a she goat. As for the clothes, I do not care as long as I cover my 'Awrah (parts of the body that must be covered). With regard to food and sleep, they have overcome me, but I will do my best to keep them*

within the minimum limits.” Al-Hasan, may Allaah have mercy upon him, commented, *“By Allaah, he indeed kept them within the minimum limits.”*

We may inquire and ask: Why did he do so? He said, *“I swear by Allaah that I would get rid of all concerns except one if I could!”*

Al-Hasan, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said, *“I swear by the Lord of the Ka’bah that he did so. Therefore, Allaah The Almighty helped him to dedicate his heart to the love of Allaah The Almighty and attach it to Him alone. Hence, he cared for no perishable worldly pleasure, as the provision of your Lord is better and more enduring.”*

You may ask me for practical steps, and I tell you,

To relinquish this worldly life and expel it from your heart:

- Mention death frequently.
- Visit the graves.
- Try to wash a dead person.
- Visit the sick people who suffer from incurable diseases.
- Try to see someone dying to witness the agonies of death.
- Write your will and review it at least once a month.
- Read books that soften the heart, listen to religious sermons, and lectures that remind you of the Last Day.
- Change your habits.
- Accustom yourself to eating any kind of food, sleeping in any place, and wearing any clothes, whether old or new.
- Fast frequently, and help the poor and the needy.
- Try to sleep at least one time on the ground.

Attaining this sublime status, will make you relinquish this world and love Allaah The Almighty.

15- Render the trusts back to their owners

16 - Speak the truth

17- Be a good neighbor:

The Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*, said: ***"If you want Allaah The Almighty to love you, then render the trusts back to their owners, speak the truth and be good neighbors."*** [at-Tabaraani] [Al-Albaani: *Hasan*]

As for rendering the trust, Allaah The Almighty Says (what means):

- ***{Indeed, Allaah commands you to render trusts to whom they are due}*** [Quran 4:58]
- ***{Then let him who is entrusted discharge his trust [faithfully] and let him fear Allaah, his Lord…}*** [Quran 2:283]

It seems that it refers to the fact that nothing can make him do so except piety and fear of Allaah The Almighty, and we know that rendering the trusts back to their owners is a characteristic of the pious people, who are the best slaves of Allaah The Exalted.

The Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*, explained that betraying the trust is a sign of hypocrisy, saying: ***"There are three signs of a hypocrite: When he speaks, he lies; when he makes a promise, he breaks it; and when he is trusted, he betrays the trust."*** [Al-Bukhaari and Muslim]

Allaah The Exalted Says (what means): ***{Indeed, Allaah does not like traitors.}*** [Quran 8:58]

Allaah The Almighty loves the honest and faithful people, and hates dishonesty and treachery.

So, beware of betraying Him.

He entrusted your heart with faith, but you do not preserve it; rather, you become negligent regarding the greatest trusts; namely, believing in Him and complying with His *Sharee'ah* (Islamic law).

I ask you by Allaah The Almighty, how do you dare to pledge to obey Him and then betray Him? How do you deny His favors upon you?

With regard to truthfulness, the Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*, said: ***"You must be truthful, for truthfulness leads to righteousness and righteousness leads to Paradise. A man will keep speaking the truth and striving to speak the truth until he will be recorded with Allaah as a Siddeeq (speaker of the truth)."*** [Al-Bukhaari and Muslim]

Truthfulness is the motto of the people of faith and it causes tranquility. Whoever accustoms himself to speaking the truth with his tongue, his heart will become righteous and his intentions will become sincere. It is enough that one may attain the status of the *Siddeeq* (affirmer of the truth) through adhering to the truth in everything.

As for being a good neighbor, the Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*, said: ***"Jibreel kept advising me to treat neighbors with kindness until I***

thought he would assign a share of inheritance to him (the neighbor).” [Al-Bukhaari and Muslim]

Kindness to neighbors is among the noble morals and it is a sign of true faith, as the Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam*, said: ***“Be kind to your neighbor to be a (true) believer.”*** [At-Tirmithi] [Al-Albaani: *Hasan*]

The people of faith are one group, and they love each other for the sake of Allaah The Almighty. The Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam*, said: ***“The dearest and nearest among you to me will be those who have the best morals among you, and those who are the best in attitude and humble, and who get along with others and others get along with them.”*** [At-Tabaraani] [Al-Albaani: *Hasan*]

There is no doubt that this requires one to resist his own desires and to be lenient; hence, be patient even when your neighbor harms you, and there is no harm in doing so as long as this entitles you to the love of Allaah The Almighty.

18- Keeping away from the causes that distract you from obedience to Allaah The Almighty:

Get rid of whatever may block your way to Allaah The Almighty, and identify these things very well. Allaah The Exalted Says (what means): ***{Rather, man, against himself, will be a witness, * Even if he presents his excuses.}*** [Quran 75:14-15]

If the obstacles are some secret or public sins, then repent to Allaah The Almighty of them and ask Him to keep you away from them, to purify you

of sin as a white garment is purified of dirt, and to wash your heart with water and snow and hail.

Entreat Him to remove any love from your heart other than love for Him.

The obstacles that may prevent some people from continuing their journey to Allaah The Almighty may be a beloved woman (or man), job, children or even social status.

However, you will never be righteous without getting rid of these obstacles until they lose all importance in your heart. Of course, this is very difficult, but sincerity and truthfulness in seeking the love and satisfaction of Allaah The Almighty, will make it easy for you.

19- Taking the initiative and trying to draw closer to Allaah The Almighty:

In a *Qudsi Hadeeth*, Allaah The Almighty Says: ***"O son of Aadam, move towards Me and I will walk towards you; walk towards Me and I will hurry towards you."*** [Ahmad] [Al-Albaani: *Saheeh*]

Hence, whoever seeks the Love of Allaah The Almighty sincerely, should know that Allaah The Almighty will come towards him at twice the speed, and the faster he gets, the sooner he will reach his destination.

A righteous man once said, *"Spread good deeds and try to draw closer to Allaah The Almighty through acts of obedience. I have never seen anything more satisfactory to the Lord than what He loves; so, take the initiative and hurry to please Him, and He will love you sooner than you expect."* Then, he wept and said, *"Showing patience with love for Allaah The Almighty and His will is the source of all good things."*

So, show Allaah The Almighty something good and believe practically that you love Allaah The Almighty and really want Him to love you and be pleased with you. Draw closer to Him through doing as many good deeds as you can.

20- Supplication:

Ibn Rajab, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said, *"One of the greatest and most important things is to ask Allaah The Almighty to endow you with perfect love for Him."*

O Allaah! Your love and satisfaction are the ultimate wish of hearts that long to be true believers; I ask You to provide us with Your love!

O Allaah! O our Lord! Love us, and be satisfied with us. Make Your love dearer to us than ourselves, our family and cold water.

O Allaah, make the things which You have provided us enable us to be more dedicated to You.

O Allaah, make Your love the dearest of things to me and Your anger the most feared thing to me, and if You delight the seekers of this world with worldly pleasures, then delight my heart with Your worship.

O Allaah, make me from those who love You, Your angels, Messengers, and righteous slaves; O Allaah, make me loved by You, Your angels, Messengers, and righteous slaves.

O Allaah! Make me from Your beloved ones, as when You love a slave, You forgive his sins and accept his good deeds, even if they are little.

O Allaah! Carry us on board the ship of security, grant us the pleasure of intimate conversations with You, quench our thirst from the fountains of Your love, make us taste the sweetness of Your love. O Allah! Make us indulgent in Your worship, sincere in dealing with You. We have no power except with You.

You are our sole hope.

Is there anyone who tastes the sweetness of Your love and then seeks the help or love of anyone besides You?

Is there anyone who enjoys Your closeness and then seeks something else?

O Allah! Make me from those whom You have chosen for Your satisfaction and love.

O Allah! Make my love for You a guide that leads me to Your pleasure, and my longing for You a deterrent that keeps me from disobeying You.

O Allaah! Look upon me with the eye of love and satisfaction, and never turn Your face away from me.

I have no God or Lord but You.

My Master and Lord,

We can never find a host better or more kind than You! You are the best protector of the lonely ones and the fugitives; I extend my hand to be granted some of Your limitless pardon and generosity; so, do not afflict me with deprivation or loss.

Your satisfaction is our ultimate hope and wish! You are the ally of the righteous, and protector of the fearful, the One who fulfills the supplication of the distressed and poor, and the treasure of the destitute! O Allaah! You are the One who fulfills the needs of the destitute and the disadvantaged! You are the most Generous and most Merciful. I entreat You and complain to You! I stand at Your door, hoping to receive some blessings from You. Do not leave any love in our hearts for anyone other than You, except if it is for Your sake.